

Message Text

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66

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DODE-00 L-03 SSO-00 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00 PM-09

INRE-00 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARP: GQLUMSDEN, JR.: RJW

4/9/73: EXTENSION 21481

APPROVED BY NEA/ ARP: FMDICKMAN

S/ CCT: JGATCH

AID/ TA/ STS: JTOBLER (INFO)

DOD/ ISA/ NESA: JTIMBERLAKE

DOD/ ISA/ SA: COL. KELLY

DOD/ OP-61: CAPT. HUGO

JCS/ J: CAPT CONNELLY

DOD/ ISA/ FMR: PBARRINGER

----- 022310

O R 100013 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065894

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MARR, BA

SUBJECT: REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BAHRAIN

REF: MANAMA 0181; MANAMA 0211

1. JUST PRIOR TO NEGOTIATIONS PRECEDING SIGNING OF US NAVY STATIONING AGREEMENT AND FACILITIES AGREEMENT, FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH MOHAMMAD TOOK POSITION USG SHOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING SOME SORT OF TANGIBLE EVIDENCE, BEYOND RENTAL PAYMENTS, OF CONTINUING US INTEREST IN BAHRAIN' S FUTURE. USG TOOK POSITION THAT RENTAL OF NAVAL FACILITIES WAS COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE TO STAND ON ITS OWN FEET AND THAT THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL USG COMMITMENT TO
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BAHRAIN OTHER THAN AGREED UPON RENTAL. GOB REALIZES RENTAL PAYMENTS UNDER AGREEMENT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY CONDITIONS ON HOW MONEY IS TO BE SPENT.

2. AFTER AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, MINISTER RAISED AGAIN POSSIBILITY, WHICH GOB HAS RAISED FROM TIME TO TIME OVER LAST FOUR YEARS, OF US PAYING FOR SMALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BAHRAIN. CHARGE GATCH EXPLAINED THERE WERE NO USG FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE AND NOT LIKELY TO BE ANY IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE NOTED THAT GOB HAD JUST ARRANGED TO RECEIVE RENTAL PAYMENTS SEVERAL TIMES ESTIMATED COST OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GOB SOUGHT AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO OUJECTION TO GOB' S APPLYING SOME OF THIS

RENTAL INCOME TOWARDS PURCHASE US PRIVATE OR OFFICIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. BAHRAINIS, HOWEVER, DECLINED ANY COMMITMENT VIS- A- VIS NEW REVENUE.

3. IN SUMMARY, THERE IS NO USG COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BAHRAIN AND NO BAHRAINI COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE SUCH ASSISTANCE. IT REMAINS US POLICY TO PROVIDE REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BAHRAIN AND OTHER GULF STATES WHICH REQUEST IT. AS YOU HAVE NOTED (MANAMA 0095), GOB IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE US TECHNICIANS. MAJOR PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED WITH BAHRAIN THUS FAR HAS BEEN THAT GOB CONSIDERS US EXPERTS TOO EXPENSIVE IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER NATIONALITIES, PARTICULARLY BRITISH, AND THAT USG HAS NO RPT NO " TOPPING OFF" CAPABILITIES AT PRESENT TIME.

4. WE HAVE BRIEFED AID (TA/ STS) DIRECTOR TOBLER ON FOREGOING. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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